



TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD

Public Safety Committee
Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Room 312
December 6, 2018
8:00 AM

MINUTES

Attendance

Leon Davidoff (Chair), Shari Cantor, Liam Sweeney (via phone), Chris Williams (via phone), Chris Barnes (via phone) Ben Wenograd (via phone)

Staff

Matt Hart (Town Manager), Peter Privitera (Director of Finance), Dan Coppinger (Assistant Police Chief), Robert McCue (Assistant Police Chief), Vernon Riddick (Police Chief), Greg Priest (Fire Chief)

Members of the Public

1. Call to Order

Councilor Davidoff called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM. He welcomed Chief Greg Priest to his first public safety committee meeting as the Town's newest fire chief.

2. Staff Reports/Communications

- a. The committee received the November 1, 2018 meeting minutes.
- b. The committee approved the 2019 proposed meeting dates.

3. Police Department Update

Chief Riddick provided a brief update on department activity, including an update on the shooting on Park Road. Arrests have been made and a press release will be distributed. There was a recent domestic dispute on Prospect Avenue. An individual attempted to jump off of a building and was saved by an officer.

He provided the committee with a personnel update. The reorganization chart will be in place and running by the first of the year. The committee can expect to have more information on chart at the January meeting. There are 24 officers eligible to retire in the next two years. The department has cadets in academies in Waterbury, New Britain, and Hartford.

Chairman Davidoff inquired about the department's monitoring of bus stops in town and asked about opportunities to raise awareness on the issue of cars not

stopping. Chief Riddick will commence enforcement actions effective tomorrow to address the situation.

4. Fire Department Update

Chief Priest thanked the committee and Town for allowing him the opportunity to serve as the newest fire chief. He provided an introduction, outlining the purpose, goals and objectives of the department.

He provided a brief update on recent activity, including cardiac arrest incidents in town and a fire caused by a laptop battery.

The department is in search of a safe apparatus. The current apparatus is old and not worth repairing. There will be an emergency purchase for a new engine for the apparatus.

The financial aspects of the emergency purchase were outlined by Mr. Privitera. Although there is a staggered replacement schedule in place and this piece of equipment was scheduled to be replaced, the equipment and back up are both inoperable. Finance is reallocating money and will use the capital fund for the purchase. Mr. Hart advised the committee that this is typical practice. The committee requested an inventory and schedule for police and fire ahead of budget season.

Chief Priest concluded his report with a personnel update. The department has 3 retirements and 2 vacancies. There are 6 cadets in the academy and the department has extended 10 conditional hires.

5. Adjournment

Chairman Davidoff commended Chief Riddick on the department's work in organizing the recent faith based leadership workshop in town.

The next Public Safety committee is scheduled for Thursday, January 3, 2019. Chairman Davidoff adjourned the meeting at 8:26 AM.